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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ken'ichi KASAZUMI, et al. Art Unit : 2873
Serial No. : 10/565,390 Examiner : Jerry C. FANG
Filing Date: January 23, 2006
Title : TWO-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE FORMATION APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Customer Window
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Randolph Building
401 Dulany St.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 13, 2006, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, Species I, corresponding to Figure 1-3, for initial examination in this application. Claims 1-9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 read on the elected Species. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are generic to all of Species I-IV outlined in the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement since all Species are sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for Species I should encompass a thorough and complete search for all Species I-IV. Thus, search and examination of all species herein could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits." This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

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For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement and examination of all species herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

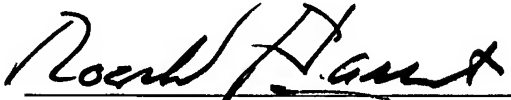
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

November 13, 2006
Date

RWP/lmw

Attorney Docket No.: 28951.1170

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